

Allen Banks

This sheltered valley of the River Allen is covered by an area of ancient woodland (pre 1600) and provides a wide range of habitats for a rich variety of plants and animals. Now a National Trust site, it was once a part of the Ridley Hall estate and in the mid 1800's had a network of "Wilderness Walks" with bridges, stone stairs, seats and summerhouses, some of which can still be seen today.

A number of nationally rare species can be found here, including the slender slug and dormouse, as well as the endangered red squirrel. Many of the plants growing in the valley are typical of ancient woodland, such as bluebells and wood fescue.

Woodland birds such as the tawny owl, great spotted woodpecker and wood warbler live alongside river birds like the grey wagtail, dipper and oystercatcher.



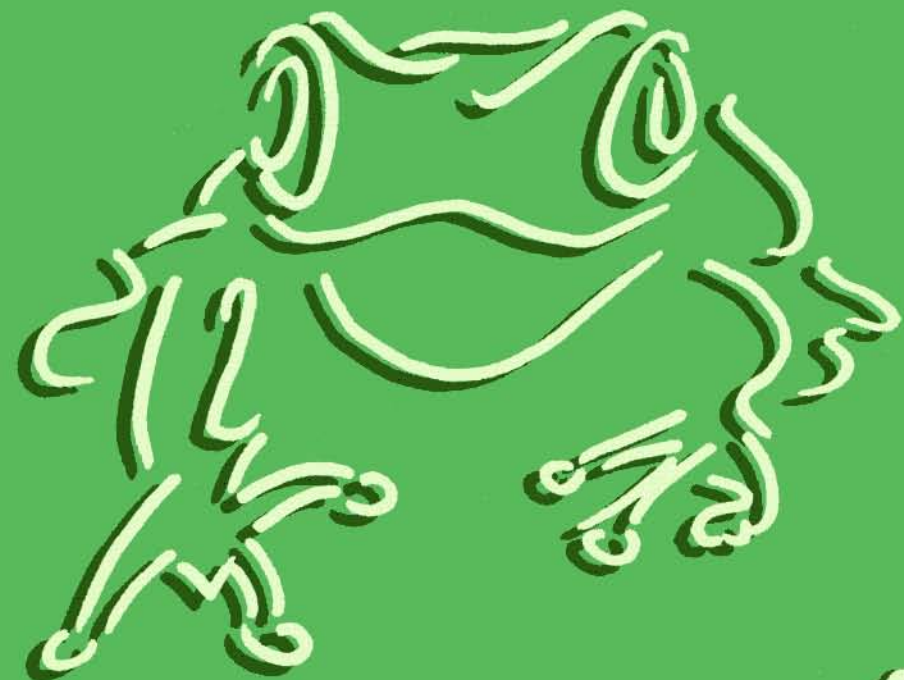
Land Ends

Two of the inhabitants of East Land Ends were the sons of the Martin family. John Martin (1789-1853) was a painter of some repute, famous for his historic and landscape scenes. Many of his works now hang in the Laing Gallery in Newcastle. His brother Jonathan, however, gained fame for quite different reasons. In 1829 he set fire to York Minster for which he was tried and later confined as a lunatic.



This **5¼ mile (8.5km)** walk between the stations of Haydon Bridge and Bardon Mill is along field and woodland paths with the start and end on quiet minor roads. There is a steep climb in and out of the Allen valley.

Services: Haydon Bridge has some shops, a post office and pubs while Bardon Mill has a general store and a pub.



train trail 4

HAYDON BRIDGE TO BARDON MILL

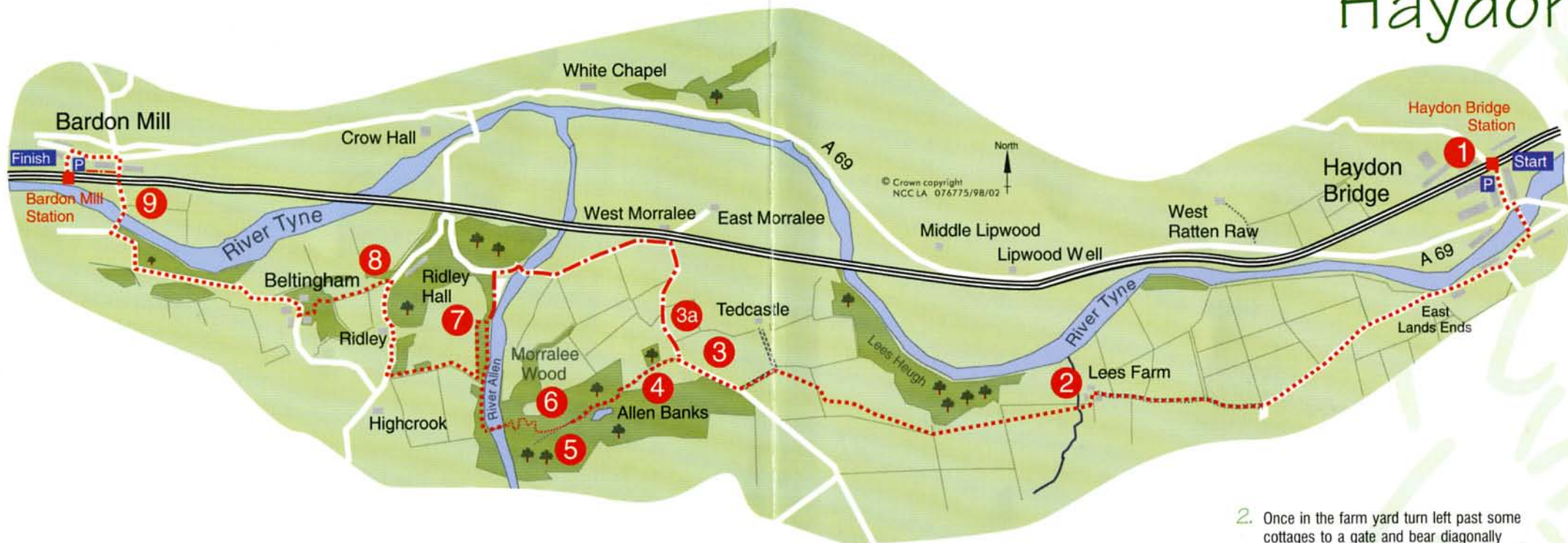
Beltingham



The village church, dedicated to St Cuthbert, Northumberland's most famous Saint, was built around 1500. However, three yew trees within the church yard are thought to be over 700 years old and indicate that this may have been the site of an earlier church, possibly Saxon. Yew trees can often be found in churchyards, and have an association with the Christian Faith as the symbol for eternal life. Another reason for their presence could also be the common use of yew in making longbows. During the reign of Henry VIII (16th Century) archery was compulsory in schools and the clergy were often the main teachers.

Linear Walk *four*

Haydon



"Tyne Valley near Bardon Mill"
-by Mary Ross

1. Leaving the station, turn left along Church Street. At the junction with the main road (A69), turn left then immediately right after the telephone box and pass under the A69 to cross the old bridge over the River South Tyne. Once over the river, turn right past the garage and then take the first right down Land Ends Road. Continue past the caravan park until, as the road bends sharply left you keep straight ahead along the road to Lees Farm.

2. Once in the farm yard turn left past some cottages to a gate and bear diagonally right to cross a small stream. Continue uphill, over a stone wall, to a field gate with the woodland on your right. Following the wall on your left to a ladder stile, bear right to drop downhill onto a grass track to join the road to Tedcastle Farm. Keeping left, continue to a junction and turn right to follow the road downhill.

3. After the road bends right, a kissing gate on the left leads onto a permissive path through The National Trust estate of Allen Banks. (See 3a for an alternative route here.)

Bridge to Bardon Mill

- 3a. If this permissive path is closed due to estate work e.g. tree felling, continue downhill, following the road as it bears left before the railway line and Morralee Farm. Continue to cross over the River Allen and turn left into the Allen Banks car park. Cross the car park and, passing the estate notice board, follow the path towards the river. At the first junction, bear right uphill following the orange waymark to the bank top. Continue on to 7.
4. Once through the kissing gate cross the field, keeping the small group of trees on your right and a field gate on your left, until you join a track leading into the Allen Banks woods. Follow this track, past the Tarn on your left and continue uphill to take the first path on the right, following a National Trust purple waymark.
5. The path continues uphill before dropping down over some steps to a junction. Turn right, following the purple waymark, as the path sweeps left and right down to a second junction. Cross straight over (purple waymark) and continue down, bearing left to join a wider path (purple waymark).
6. Continue ahead, then turn right down some stone steps and follow the path down to the suspension bridge across the River Allen. Once over the bridge, turn right along the river bank to another junction of paths and, following the National Trust orange waymark, turn sharply left to the top of the bank.
7. Continue along the edge of the wood to a stile on the right. Once over, follow the Ha-ha (sunken ditch) then fence on your left to reach the road and the end of the Allen Banks Estate. Turn right and follow the road past a farm. As it drops downhill, turn left through a kissing gate into a grass field.
8. With the fence on your left, follow the path into a small wood, across a stream and into the village of Beltingham. Turn right and follow the road downhill out of the village and past a Northumberland Wildlife Trust reserve on the right. After the road bends right then left, bear right to cross a footbridge over the River South Tyne.
9. Continue along a walled track and cross the railway. For quick access to the railway station, turn left immediately through a white gate and follow a narrow fenced path to the east bound (Newcastle) platform. Alternatively, continue straight ahead and turn left along the main road. Before the Post Office and bus stop turn left again down to Bardon Mill station.